

Winds damage property, environment

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

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Hurricane Kyrill left its mark on Baumholder Jan. 18 as it whipped through the community with winds up to 60 miles per hour.

"It's been at least 10 years since Germany and Europe experienced such a strong storm that caused so much damage," said Capt. Matthew Hauke, production supervisor at the 21st Operational Weather Squadron at Sembach Air Base.

Winds reaching 40 to 50 knots began battering Baumholder at about 10 a.m. Jan. 18, according to officials at the 21st OWS. The brunt of the storm occurred at 1:08 p.m. Jan. 18 when Baumholder experienced winds up to 52 knots, or 60 miles per hour, according to officials at the 21st OWS.

Hurricane Kyrill uprooted trees and damaging property throughout the community but no injuries were reported. The most extensive damage occurred in the Wetzel housing area when the wind lifted the roof off of Building 8875, next to the Baumholder housing office. The bottom floor of the building is under renovation and will to be used by the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps and Community Youth Services.

The roof was designed as a continuous metal sheet so, "When you had winds in excess of 180 kilometers come up under the eve, it just took the whole thing up and turned it into a flying wing," said Pat Brady, from the U.S. Army Garrison Hessen Directorate of Public Works design and construction division.

Renovation of the first floor in Building 8875 is being handled by engineers from the USAG Hessen so Brady was called in to organize the cleanup and repairs to prevent any additional damage to the building and to the renovation project on the first floor.

Together with members of the U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder Directorate of Public Works and SKE Facility



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

The roof of Building 8875 litters the street after strong winds ripped it completely off the building Jan. 18.

Management Services, the contractors handling the cleanup and repair project, Brady immediately began planning the cleanup and repair efforts.

"We have to do this in two stages. The first stage is the emergency response. We've got to get the contractor out there working as soon as is physically and contractually possible," said Brady.

"Our immediate priorities are to clean up the damage, remove safety hazards and place a temporary roof on the building to prevent damage from moisture," said Brady.

"We are moving quickly on this. We are already mobilizing people and material for the cleanup project," said Brady. Response to this emergency was swift and Brady gave much credit to SKE Facility Management Services, "I could not do what I am doing right now without these guys," said Brady.

The second phase includes placing a new permanent roof on the building. "It involves coming up with estimates, scope, coming up with funds and permission and then proceeding with the project. We are already doing an initial inspection to see if there is an

imminent hazard and there appears to be none," said Brady. "We're also going to get a structural engineer out there to do a static to clear any safety issues and then we will develop a task order and repair the damage," said Brady.

The clean up portion will be done within days but Brady estimates it will take about six months before a new roof is in place. "Of course, I'm going to push for that to be done quicker but I don't want to rush into this and just replace without thinking. My concern is the safety of the existing timber truss system. I want to make sure that it is safe before I put new insulation and new roofing on top of that. I don't want the roof to come down on people some day so I'm going to go a little slow there, but as far as the cleaning up of the mess and the protection of the building with a temporary roof, we're going very fast on that," said Brady.

The initial estimate to clean the damage and replace the roof is approximately € 200,000. Brady and his team were also asked by USAG Baumholder officials to handle the repair of fence damage near the clinic as well as damage to yet another



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Pat Brady, left, heads up the team responsible for cleaning up the rubble from Building 8875 and repairing the roof.

roof at a motor pool on Smith Barracks.

The strong winds also took their toll on other structures on Baumholder. The marquee next to the Mountaineer Gym, used to advertise an array of community events, was toppled and gnarled beyond repair and a 60-foot tree in front of the 1st Battalion 6th Infantry Regiment headquarters building was completely uprooted. The tree top had to be quickly removed because it extended into the walkway and road. The tree was removed over the weekend.

Even before the brunt of the storm hit, strong winds and rain

moved an AFN receiving dish off target and the prevailing conditions didn't allow for repair work by AFN technicians. "We'll have to wait until this weather passes to get 106.1 back up," said Master Sgt. Mike Wetzel AFN Hessen station commander.

The high winds brought down branches throughout the community, damaging road signs and creating temporary driving hazards. Members from the USAG Baumholder DPW roads and grounds were busy throughout the evening and the following day clearing away hazards caused by the storm.

Siren test, don't panic

The U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder will test its mass notification system on Feb. 3. The test will consist of a siren sound and a recorded voice message. The test message will be heard on Smith Barracks, Wetzel and Champion housing and the Strassburg and Neubrück communities. Residents are advised that this is only a test and there is no cause for alarm.

ACS wants you

Army Community Service is currently looking for volunteers interested in gaining customer service experience by volunteering to work with the information and referral program manager on an ongoing basis at ACS.

Working just a few hours every week, volunteers have the opportunity to increase their customer service experience, network with the Baumholder community and learn about ACS time commitment. Interested volunteers should contact ACS at civ (06783) 6-8188 or mil 485-8188

Other volunteer opportunities available at ACS include assisting with the following programs: relocation assistance, exceptional family member, mobilization and deployment, family advocacy and Army team building .

Notes

Contact Ginalyn Cowles, the Baumholder Army Volunteer Corps Coordinator at civ (06783) 6-8188 for more information.

Improve your Army - AFAP

Help improve your Army by participating in the 2007 Army Family Action Plan Conference. ACS is currently seeking Army quality of life issue submissions until Feb. 5, 2007. Issues should be cost effective and doable. If someone needs help writing out an issue or articulating that issue in specific terms call ACS at mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188.

Health coordinator sought

An employment opportunity is available to fill the Health Promotion Coordinator position for the U.S. Army Garrisons Baumholder and Kaiserslautern. The position involves coordinating, planning, organizing, and implementing a comprehensive health promotion program for both garrisons. Applicants must have a strong business background, be able to run meetings and briefings and facilitate working groups. Completion

of a graduate degree or experience as a health promotion coordinator is preferred. Local travel is required.

The primary purpose of this position is to coordinate the Community Health Promotion Council meetings for the respective USAG – identifying redundancies and voids of programs and services by evaluating population needs, assessing existing programs, and coordinating interventions towards high risk populations based on metric driven profiles of the communities

Anyone interested in applying for this contract position should either email or fax a resume to:

Cathy.Douglas@eur.army.mil, or fax it to mil 485-8597 or civ (06783) 6-8597. For more information call mil 489-6238, 485-7306 or civ (06783) 6-7306.

AFAP delegates needed

Army Community Services also needs interested volunteers to serve as AFAP Conference delegates. The conference is March 5 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Rheinlander Convention Center. Delegates will refine and prioritize

submitted issues.

Interested individuals should contact ACS at mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188 or you can email the contact information to:

Melinda.n.Thomas@us.army.mil.

Please include full name, sponsors rank, unit, home phone number, and cell phone.

Vet Clinic hours

The Vet Clinic's new customer service hours are Monday through Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The clinic is open for over the counter sales and scheduling Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Fridays from 9 a.m.-noon.

The Vet Clinic is temporarily closed on Thursdays for training and because of staff shortages.

There is no on call veterinarian and no emergency care hours so customers should contact their host nation veterinarian in case of an emergency.

A list of local vets is available at the Vet Clinic. There will be no clinics Feb. 12 or 14 because of a field training exercise.

The Vet Clinic will be offering evening walk-in clinics Feb 20 and 21 from 5-7 p.m. for health certificates and vaccines. For more information call the Vet Clinic at civ (06783) 6-6636 or civ 485-6636.

2nd BCT recognizes deployment support from community

Community members who supported the 2nd Brigade Combat Team during its deployment were recognized Jan. 10 for their contributions by Col. Robert E. Scurlock, 2nd BCT commander and Command Sgt. Major Jose Santos, 2nd BCT command Sergeant major.

In a ceremony at the Rheinlander, each individual or organization received a 2nd BCT certificate of appreciation.

Special recognition went to Lauren Scurlock who received the Presidential Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service signed by President George Bush.

Community members and organizations recognized include:

●Harry Gizzas Floral Shop (provided flowers for the memorial services)

- Elizabeth Bailey (sung at the memorial services)
- Sgt Bobby Pate (sung at the memorial services)
- Kathy Ledbetter (ACS)
- Dan Furlano (ACS)
- Bonnie Phelps (CYS)
- Debra Porrett (CYS)
- Emma Donaldson (CYS)
- Alisha McGuire (CYS)
- Dispensary Child Development Center
- Baumholder American High School
- Mary Jan Spreier (support to the FRG's)
- Edelweiss Lodge and Resort
- Hambachtal Lodge and Resort
- Eiko Holzinger
- Bianca Bowen
- William Kalavsky
- Christopher Macri
- USAG Baumholder
- Good Samaritan Chapel staff

Army Family Action Plan Issue Paper

Issue/Concern:

Possible Solution:

Drop off this issue paper at any community orange drop box or to ACS directly, Bldg 8745 2nd floor.

For questions or concerns regarding the 2007 AFAP Conference, please contact mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188.

You can also mail this form to ACS at the following address:

Army Community Service
Unit 23746, Box 2
APO, AE 09034



Soldiers utilize virtual gateway to satisfy tuition, educational needs



Photo by Kelsy Husted

Private First Class Philip Nixon, Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion 6th Infantry Regiment searches online for classes in the GoArmyEd program at the Baumholder Education Center on Jan. 19. Nixon, who arrived to Baumholder Jan. 3, is pursuing a degree in Management Studies.

By Kelsy Husted
*US Army Garrison
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Managing your post secondary education as an active duty Soldier may be easier than you think.

"More than 1,000 Soldiers in US Army Garrison Hessen are enrolled in GoArmyEd. Two hundred and twenty five of those Soldiers are currently taking courses online in Baumholder," said Gene Hickman, Hub Education Service Support officer at Wiesbaden.

The implementation of GoArmyEd program, online tuition assistance and enrollment program, is now available to active duty Soldiers to manage their educational needs through a virtual gateway to request tuition assistance online for classroom, distance learning, and eArmyU online college courses.

"GoArmyEd program is a new Army initiative that was

rolled out in early 2006 in full force," said Michaelene Tyler, Baumholder Education Service Support director.

"This program expands upon the eArmyU program that was developed four or five years ago," she said.

GoArmyEd is used by Soldiers to pursue their educational goals, by Army education counselors to provide guidance to Soldiers, and colleges to deliver degree and course offerings and to report a Soldiers progress.

"In the past, Soldiers had to meet certain criteria for the eArmyU program. GoArmyEd is open to all Soldiers," said Tyler.

The eArmyU portal was replaced by the GoArmyEd portal, but still allows Soldiers to take classes that include books, Internet Service Provider access, and all class fees. The eArmyU program hosted only 29 schools with various degree plans.

"Now, Soldiers have a larger number of schools and degree plans to choose from with GoArmyEd.com," said Tyler.

GoArmyEd enables Soldiers to request and process all TA

course enrollments and drops, thus eliminating the paper TA form. A Soldier may select from more than 175 colleges and universities and over 1,000 degree programs. A Soldier can also view his or her available TA balance, student record, class grades, and current course enrollment from a personalized GoArmyEd homepage.

"It allows me to take classes online in the afternoon on post," said Private First Class Philip Nixon, Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion 6 Infantry Regiment.

Nixon, who has been on active duty since August of 2006, arrived in Baumholder on Jan. 3, is seeking a degree in Management Studies from the University of Maryland.

"This is my first experience taking college courses. GoArmyEd is really easy to work with," said Nixon.

"Soldiers can enroll immediately and they do not have to get a tuition assistance letter. It is efficient and directly online. This is an all together great system for the Soldiers to further their education," said Hickman.

"We had Soldiers that took

classes while on the last deployment. If they had good connectivity in their area, they were able to sign up and take classes. We were always available by phone or email to address any problems or questions that arose," said Tyler.

"Soldiers can use a school that is not part of GoArmyEd; however, the Soldier will have to pay all tuition fees upfront to enroll and wait to be reimbursed. With GoArmyEd, a Soldier will select the college or university and degree program from the ones available and all tuition is paid for them. The Soldier can enroll once he or she is set up as a new user," said Tyler.

In addition to the GoArmyEd program available in Baumholder, Soldiers can utilize the Army Center Learning Library for continuing education as well as take the Functional Academic Skills Testing class to improve their GT score in order to become eligible to change his or her military occupation specialty. The Education Center also offers programs to

family members in Adult Education in foreign languages to include German, French, Russian, and Spanish. The Overseas Spouse Education Assistance program is available for those seeking a Bachelors degree. And the University of Maryland and Central Texas College offers in-house classes. General Equivalency Diploma, Graduate Record Exam, Scholastic Assessment Test study guides and College Level Examination Program tests are available.

A free computer lab is available with printer capability. The computer lab is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and closed on federal holidays.

If you are interested in learning more about GoArmyEd, visit www.GoArmyEd.com or stop by the Baumholder Education Center, Building 8332, Smith Barracks, mil 485-7557, civ (06783) 6-7557. Education counselors are available Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Photo by Kelsy Husted

A 1st Armored Division Soldier participates in Functional Academic Skills Testing (FAST) Class on Jan. 19 at Baumholder Education Center. Soldiers must meet established General Technical (GT) scores in order to be eligible for particular military occupational specialties.

Joe Satellite

Group exercise classes, Soldier PT

Are you looking for something special to offer your Family Readiness group or training sessions? Fitness Promotions offers a group fitness class. A group rate is available for \$50 or individual tickets may be purchased for \$4 each. The minimum number of participants is 15 and the maximum participants are 30. Call Honey Bueno at civ (06783) 6-7093 or mil 485-7093 to schedule a class.

Athletic club, pool

The Rolling Hills Athletic Club is located in upper Wetzel and includes an indoor pool and fitness center. The fitness center is open from noon to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday and noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Sunday and holidays. Call the RHAC for the current pool hours. There are daily, monthly and quarterly membership rates available for individuals or families. Call the RHAC for information on pricing at civ (06783) 6-6156.

Family swim night is offered every Friday from 5-8 p.m. The cost is \$1 per person.

The pool is in need of lifeguards. Contact Warren Latham at the RHAC, civ (06783) 6-6156 or civ (06783) 6-6575.

Pool party rental

The pool and the party room can be rented for up to 25 guests. Rent includes three hour usage, party room and tables and chairs for \$75. The room is available on the weekends from 1-4 p.m.

All that jazz

Beginner jazz dance will be held on Wednesdays from 6:30-8 p.m. beginning Feb. 7. The Level I classes will be held on Thursdays from 6:30-8 p.m. beginning Feb. 1. Four classes costs \$40. A minimum of three students are required for each session. Registration is required for each session. Call the Rolling Hills Athletic Club to register at civ (06783) 6-6156. Credit cards are accepted over the phone. The beginner March session starts March 7 and Level I begins March 1.

Personal training

Currently, there are no appointments available for personal training but four personal trainers will be coming in March.

Community Briefs

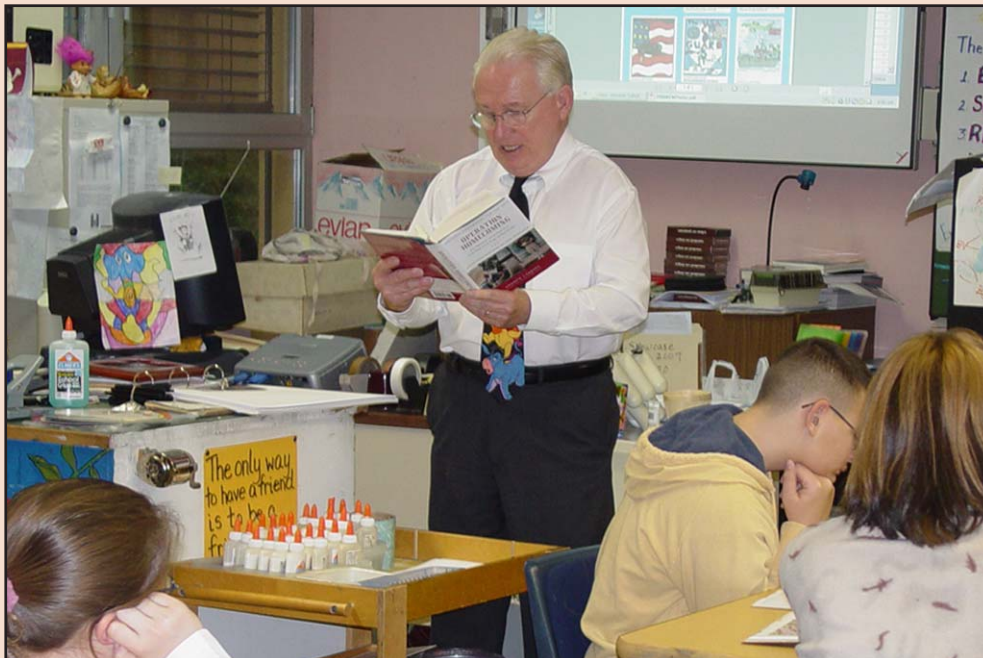


Photo by Kelsy Husted

"Virtual Soldier"

Joseph Caruselle, principal at Smith Elementary, Baumholder, reads "Virtual Soldier" from Andrew Carroll's book, "Operation Homecoming," to a group of sixth grade students. The poem written by Caruselle's son, Pfc. Allan J. Caruselle, United States Marine Corps, was one selected from more than 20,000 entries by American military men and women. Military members submitted stories and poetry about their experiences in Iraq for selection. Caruselle expressed to the students that their writing skills they are learning now can be utilized in the future.

They will offer sessions at all gyms. The cost is \$35 per person per 60 minute session. Five sessions cost \$150 per person. Ten sessions are \$250 per person. Buddy sessions will also be offered. This consists of two people. Buddy sessions are \$30 per person per 60 minute session. Five sessions cost \$125 per person. Ten sessions are \$200 per person.

Fitness classes

The following classes are offered at the Rolling Hills Athletic Club:

Monday, Friday, spinning, 4:15-5:15 p.m.

Monday, spinning, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Thursday, yoga, 11:45 a.m.

Tuesday, Thursday, circuit, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, yoga, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Thursday, spinning, 6:30 p.m.

There will be no fitness class on Feb. 19 and no belly dancing classes in February.

Fitness tickets

Tickets for fitness classes cost \$4 each or ten for \$30. Tickets may be purchased at Rolling

Hills Athletic Club, Mountaineer Gym, or the Hall of Champions.

Wellness massage

Relax with a certified masseuse at the Rolling Hills Athletic Club. Sports, Wellness, and Fitness Massages are now available. Choose from Swedish, deep tissue, hot stone therapy, combination, specific, reflexology and couples massage.

A 60-minute session costs \$40 per person. Call to schedule your appointment at mil 485-6156 or civ (06783) 6-6156, payment is due at time of reservation, credit cards accepted over the phone.

Mountaineer classes

Monday, Wednesday, Step, 9-10 a.m., tickets are \$4 each or 10 for \$30

Tuesday, Thursday, Boot Camp, 9:30-10:30 a.m., tickets are \$5 each, last class is Feb. 15

Friday, Circuit, 9-10 a.m., tickets are \$4 each or 10 for \$30.

Golf course

The Rolling Hills Golf Course is offering a winter white and color sale all month.

If it has a color, it's on sale. Stop in and save money on all your golfing needs.

Winter driving range

The driving range is open daily with lights on until 9:30 p.m. Purchase tokens at the Pro Shop before 5 p.m.

Mountaineer hours

The Mountaineer Fitness Center is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 6-9 a.m. and closed Thursdays, holidays and weekends. Call civ (06783) 6-7418 or mil 485-7418 for more information.

Mountaineer classes

Monday, Wednesday, Step, 9-10 a.m.

Friday, Circuit, 9-10 a.m.

ACS has new hours

Baumholder's Army Community Service has changed its hours of operation. The hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call ACS at mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188 for information.

Nurturing programs

Multiple week family programs focusing on nurturing teach positive parenting tech-

niques and alternatives to physical discipline. Children and parents attend at the same time in separate classes. Attendees are encouraged to attend all sessions. There are four separate nurturing classes offered: pre-natal, toddler to school, newborn to five years, school age, six to 12 years, and teenage, 13 to 18 years. Call the Family Advocacy Program at mil 485-8188 for information and to register for the next available classes.

Expectant parents

Expectant parent classes, labor, delivery, breast feeding, and newborn care are offered as home visits. Call Silvia Emond at civ (06783) 6-6932/6931 to schedule a home visit.

Free child care

Free child care is available for E-1 to E-4 families for up to 10 hours monthly on a space available basis. This care is for infant through kindergarten ages at the Dispensary CDC, Strassburg CDC and FCC homes when not enrolled in a full-time program.

School Age Services at Wetzel provides five free hours to all ranks. Come to CYS central registration in Building 8743 to pick up your respite card.

Sitters available

The American Red Cross has certified adult or teenage baby sitters. Come by central enrollment in Building 8743 to pick up the current list. Baby sitters are available in Baumholder, Idar-Oberstein and Kusel.

Homeless pets

If you are unable to take your pet with you when you PCS, the Vogelweh Stray Facility has a program to take your pets and find them a new home. The fee is \$45 for an animal turn in.

You must call in advance since there is limited space. The Vogelweh Stray Facility is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m. and the first Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to noon and closed on holidays.

You may also go to their website at KMCstray.com and place a classified ad for \$5 to put an animal up for adoption. Call for more information at civ (0631) 536-6588.